Disinvestment of SCI

*385. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry approved disinvestment of the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, how much of the total stakes would be disinvested; and

(c) the purpose of disinvestment in SCI?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) No decision has been taken with respect to disinvestment in Shipping Corporation of India Limited.

Promotion of Tourism

*386. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether new initiatives and marketing strategies have been formulated by Government for promotion of tourism during 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for increasing the number of tourists and ensuring them safety in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Marketing and promotion of tourism in India is a continuous and ongoing activity of the Ministry of Tourism. The new domestic and global promotional compaigns for the current year focus on India as a destination for niche segments like Medical Tourism, Rural Tourism, Cruise Tourism, Spiritual Tourism, Conferences & Conventions, etc. The aim is to expand the range of the tourism products in India, both for the domestic and international consumers.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism, through the India tourism offices overseas, undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas for increasing the number of tourists visiting India. These include advertising, participation in fairs and exhibitions, organizing seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures, joint advertising